

and lifelong activist; Billy Strayhorn, the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; Tom Waddell, army medical doctor and Olympic athlete; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination to make America a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

#### HONORING BRIGETTA K. TURNER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Brigetta K. Turner, who is a 1982 graduate of Tougaloo College and obtained her Doctorate of Dental Surgery Degree from Meharry Medical College. She presently practices dentistry on Tougaloo's campus in the Owens Health and Wellness Center and has been in private practice for over 25 years.

She loves playing the piano and shares her gift at Mt. Nebo M. B. Church. She loves Tougaloo and is ready to help bring Tougaloo to the world. Dr. Turner is a life member of TCNAA, a 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee. She is also the Secretary of the Mississippi Dental Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Brigetta K. Turner for her dedication to serving others.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF REVEREND GUY S. MCKENZIE

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Reverend Guy S. McKenzie of Owingsville, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Reverend McKenzie served our nation in uniform from 1943 to 1946.

Reverend McKenzie spent his early years in farming. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Shortly after enlisting, he began a three year tour in the South Pacific.

Not long after his deployment, Reverend McKenzie was assigned to the USS *Houston*. While the ship was traveling from Pearl Harbor to Formosa, now known as Taiwan, the ship came under heavy fire from the Japanese. It was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, cutting an immense gash in the side of her hull. As the ship was sinking, Reverend McKenzie thought about his life and wondered if these were his final moments on earth. He jumped in the water, began to pray, and promised the Lord that he would serve him for the rest of his life if he would be spared. After floating for some time in the ocean, the USS *Lofberg* came along and rescued McKenzie and the remaining survivors.

Reverend McKenzie spent the rest of his tour of duty aboard the USS *Lofberg*. He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1946 with the rank of First Seaman and returned home to his family. Two years after his return, he kept his promise and gave his life to the Lord.

Ten years later, he began preaching. Reverend McKenzie retired after 26 years of pastoring. Because of his love, compassion, and caring service, he impacted many lives. Reverend McKenzie has been married to Joyce for 70 years. They have six children, eleven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and two great, great grandchildren. Reverend McKenzie is to be commended for his brave service to his country, his strong passion for the Lord, and his loyal life as a family man.

Reverend McKenzie's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform secured our freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

#### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wal-Mart Distribution Center located in St. James, Missouri, for being named the Wal-Mart Distribution Center of the Year for 2014. This prestigious award is not easily attained as it recognizes just one out of all the Wal-Mart distribution centers in the United States.

In order to receive this award, the employees of the distribution center in St. James distinguished themselves through their hard work, dedication, and by setting an example for others to follow. I am very proud of their service to the community of Phelps County and the surrounding area.

Their work ethic is truly admirable and it is my pleasure to recognize their achievements before the House of Representatives.

#### INTRODUCTION STATEMENT: GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH LEGISLATION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to reintroduce legislation to finally permit the use of federal funds for long overdue research on firearm safety and gun violence.

For too long, Congress has failed to address the public health crisis caused by gun violence. On average, there are 32,000 deaths and 76,000 injuries from gun violence each year in the United States. Gun deaths now outpace traffic fatalities in our country. It is time to address the epidemic of gun violence and prevent future incidents. Public health research will help identify effective solutions we can implement in order to save lives.

The bill I introduce today, with companion legislation introduced by Sen. ED MARKEY,

would authorize \$10 million in annual funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Fiscal Year 2021. This funding will allow the CDC to implement the research agenda outlined in a 2013 report issued by the Institutes of Medicine that identified areas in need of study to better understand the underlying causes of gun violence and develop strategies for prevention.

Federal funding for gun violence research halted in the mid-1990s. As a result, policymakers and community leaders lack the authoritative public health research they need to address the horrifying persistence of gun violence. We have more gun-related deaths than any other developed country, yet we lack comprehensive, scientific information about the causes and characteristics of gun violence.

This public health crisis cannot be ignored any longer, and I'm proud to introduce this legislation that addresses the epidemic of gun violence and identifies the best strategies to prevent future incidents.

#### HONORING SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D. BOOKER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran, Sergeant Christopher Dewayne Booker. Christopher has shown what can be done through ambition, tenacity and a desire to serve others.

Sergeant Christopher D. Booker a resident of Cary, MS was born April 23, 1971, to Gloria and Willie Booker. He graduated in 1990 from Rolling Fork High School.

In September 1989 Christopher enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He was mobilized for Desert Storm in December 1990 until May 1991. In November of 2005 to February of 2006 Sergeant Booker's unit was activated to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He retired from the MS National Guard in September 2015 after serving over twenty-five years.

Christopher worked for Sharkey County as a machine operator for 10 years. Currently, he works for the Town of Cary, MS as a Water and Sewer Operator.

Sergeant Booker is a member of E. P. Baptist Church in Rolling Fork, Mississippi since 1985. He is thoroughly involved in the community. He organized the Annual Community Clean-up for Maiden Addition, a small community in Cary, MS; serves as a volunteer coach for both the Cary Little League Softball and Baseball teams and is a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Cary. Christopher is an avid hunter and is the President of the New Fittler Hunting Club, a third degree freemason and a member of the Faith Outreach Men Bible Study at Mt. Zion M. B. Church.

Christopher has earned several certifications. He received his certification for Army Traffic Safety, Combat Lifesaver, Water Treatment Specialist Phase I, Homeland Security Training and Parent Applicant Training.

He is the proud father of three children, Herman D. Scott, Christopher D. Booker and Gloria K. Booker. He has one grandson, Brayden Adams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Christopher D. Booker